

nal marginal plates on each arm are fused together, and bear two diverging spines, one on either side, and above these on the dorsal aspect a central spine set on a low tubercle. In the re-entering angles between the arms the two central pairs of marginal plates are closely covered with minute flattened scales

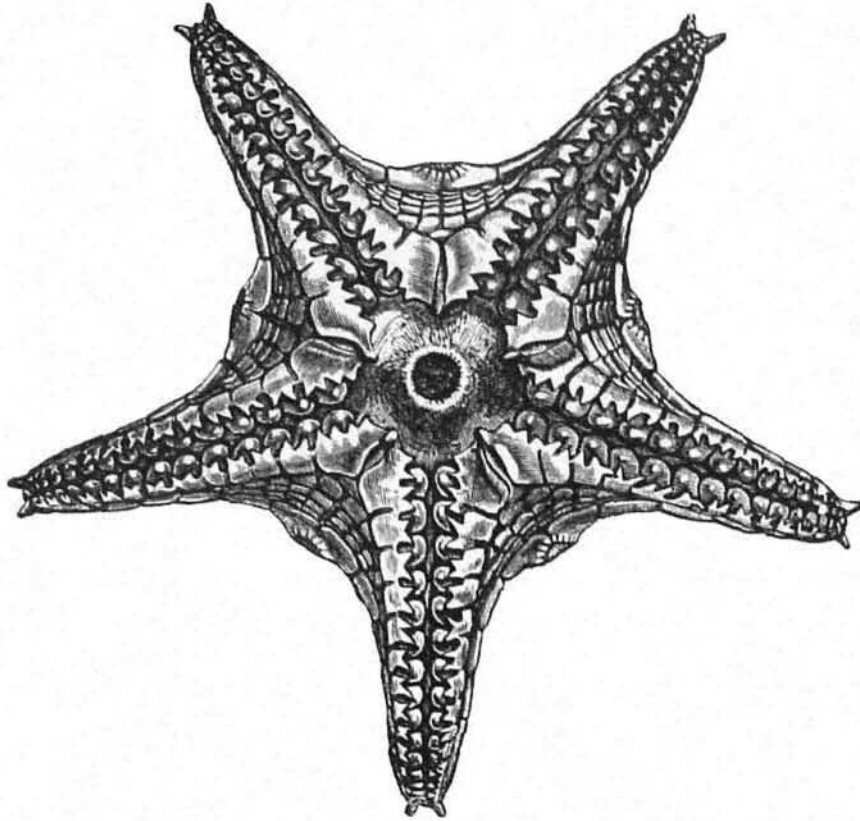


FIG. 97.—*Porcellanaster ceruleus*, WYVILLE THOMSON. Oral surface. Natural size. (No. 45.).

inserted on edge, and arranged in vertical rows. This is a most characteristic style of ornament; it looks as if there were a little brush between each pair of arms. The perisom of the dorsal surface is loaded with narrow calcareous plates which run together toward the ends of the arms so as to form an almost continuous calcareous investment; paxillæ are scattered over the disk, and the outer layer of the perisom of the disk has a very delicate color, ranging from a pale to a tolerably strong cobalt-blue. The calcareous plates are clear white, with somewhat of a porcellanous lustre, and look harder than the surface plates usually do in star-fishes. The madreporic tubercle is large, with sub-parallel grooves and ridges; the excretory opening is very distinct in the centre of the dorsal perisom of